

## Message Text

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47

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-14 NSC-10 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-09 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01

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R 191430 Z MAR 73

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1474

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS DURBAN 0125

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: SOCI, SF

SUBJ: DR. BILLY GRAHAM IMPRESSES HUGE MULTI- RACIAL AUDIENCE  
IN DURBAN

1. ADDRESSING WHAT HAS BEEN TERMED LARGEST MULTI- RACIAL CROWD EVER TO ASSEMBLE IN SOUTH AFRICA, DR. BILLY GRAHAM PRESENTED HIS FAMOUS EVANGELISTIC MESSAGE TO AN ESTIMATED 45,000- STRONG TOTALLY INTEGRATED AUDIENCE IN DURBAN' S KING' S PARK STADIUM ON MARCH 17. CROWD, WHICH EXCEEDED ALL EXPECTATIONS, FILLED NOT ONLY ENTIRE STADIUM BUT MUCH OF RUGBY FIELD AS WELL BEFORE OVERFLOWING INTO NEARBY SOCCER FIELD. MASSIVE AUDIENCE WAS COMPLETELY ORDERLY AND LISTENED ATTENTIVELY TO VARIED MUSICAL PROGRAM PROVIDED INTER ALIA BY 1,000 VOICE MULTI- RACIAL CHOIR AND VISITING AMERICAN GOSPEL POP GROUP, AND TO DR. GRAHAM' S MESSAGE. ANSWERING HIS CALL TO WITNESS FOR CHRIST, THOUSANDS STREAMED FROM PACKED STANDS AT END OF RALLY TO FILL ENTIRE RUGBY FIELD IN OVERWHELMING DISPLAY OF RELIGIOUS FERVOR.

2. WHILE ESCHEWING DIRECT REFERENCE TO SA POLITICAL SITUATION, DR. GRAHAM HIT HARD AT RACIALISM IN HIS ADDRESS. UNLESS THAT AND OTHER EVILS OF PRESENT DAY WERE ELIMINATED, HE SAID, " WE UNCLASSIFIED

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WILL DESTROY EACH OTHER IN A WORLD- WIDE RACIAL CONFLAGRATION ... CHRISTIANITY IS NOT A WHITE MAN' S RELIGION," HE INSISTED, AND CHRIST WAS NOT A WHITE MAN. NEITHER WAS HE A BLACK MAN, BUT HE " PROBABLY HAD A BROWN SKIN LIKE MANY OF THE INDIANS IN DURBAN." WORLD NEEDED A REVOLUTION, HE SAID, A REVOLUTION OF NEW IDEAS AND NEW PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS THAT ONLY CHRIST COULD BRING.

3. AT INVITATION SPONSORS, AMBASSADOR HURD FLEW FROM CAPE TOWN TO ATTEND RALLY. ALSO SITTING ON PLATFORM WERE CONGEN, MAYOR OF DURBAN, REPRESENTATIVE OF ADMINISTRATOR OF NATAL, CHIEF FATSHA BUTHELEZI AND OTHER DIGNITARIES.

4. DURING VISIT DURBAN, DR. GRAHAM HAS SOUGHT IN OTHER WAYS TO DEMONSTRATE HIS MULTI- RACIAL APPROACH. ON SATURDAY MORNING HE PAID A WELL- PUBLICIZED VISIT TO DURBAN' S FAMOUS INDIAN MARKET, WHICH HAD BEEN LARGELY DESTROYED BY FIRE PRECEDING NIGHT. ON SUNDAY HE ATTENDED CHURCH SERVICE WITH ALPHEUS ZULU, ANGLICAN BISHOP OF ZULULAND, IN KWAMASHU, ONE OF DURBAN' S TWO LARGE TOWNSHIPS. AT MULTI- RACIAL LUNCHEON LATER SAME DAY AT CONGEN RESIDENCE, GRAHAM TOLD AMBASSADOR HE WAS DEEPLY MOVED BY TREMENDOUS TURN- OUT AT HIS RALLY AND, ESPECIALLY, BY ITS COMPLETELY INTEGRATED NATURE IN THIS LAND OF APARTHEID. SUNDAY TRIBUNE MARCH 18 QUOTES GRAHAM AS TELLING LONDON INDEPENDENT TELEVISION NEWS REPORTER IN DURBAN THAT " APARTHEID IS NOT GOING TO WORK... I THINK PEOPLE HAVE TO CHANGE AND I THINK THEY REALIZE CHANGE IS ON THE WAY... CHRISTIANS AT LEAST ARE BEGINNING TO SEE THAT THEY MUST WORK TOGETHER IN WHAT WE CALL IN AMERICA AN INTEGRATED SOCIETY."

5. COMMENT: HUGE AND COMPLETELY INTEGRATED RALLY IN DURBAN' S PRINCIPAL SPORT ARENA, WHICH AFRICANS ARE ORDINARILY NOT PERMITTED EVEN TO ENTER, HAS MADE A TREMENDOUS IMPACT IN DURBAN. QUESTION NOW IS WHETHER ENTHUSIASM GENERATED CAN INDEED CARRY OVER TO HELP BRING ABOUT REVOLUTIONARY CHANGE IN THINKING THAT DR. GRAHAM PERCEIVED WAS SO NECESSARY.  
HOLMES

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